

News Release

For immediate release: July 25, 2012 (12-100)

*This news release has been revised to correct the county of residence.

Contacts: <u>Julie Graham</u>, Communications Office 360-236-4022

Kate Lynch, Communications Office 360-236-4072

Assault charges in criminal court lead to suspension of nurse in King County

OLYMPIA — The license of Seattle area registered nurse Sabelita Hawkins (RN00173626) has been immediately suspended based on criminal assault charges in Superior Court. The suspension by the Washington State Department of Health and the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission means Hawkins cannot work as a registered nurse until the case is resolved.

Hawkins allegedly assaulted a coworker at the Veterans Affair Medical Center, and later attacked her mother with a knife. She has been charged with criminal Assault in the First Degree.

Hawkins has 20 days to answer the charges and ask for a hearing. The charges can be seen online by clicking "Look up a health care provider" on the <u>Department of Health website</u>; copies can be requested by calling 360-236-4700. That's also the number to call to file complaints against health care providers in Washington.

The Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission protects public health and safety in Washington. The commission licenses and disciplines nurses, using standards of practice.

The <u>Department of Health website</u> (www.doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*. Also, find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

###